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Docket No. 22750/350

REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
GROUP ART UNIT 1733

#41/J (N/E)
VASE
7/25/03

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor: Peter PFEUFFER
Serial No.: 08/900,254
Filing Date: July 25, 1997
For: FILTER MATERIAL, METHOD
OF ITS MANUFACTURE, AND
APPARATUS FOR
MANUFACTURING A FILTER
MATERIAL

Group Art Unit: 1733
Examiner: Yao, S.
Confirmation No.: 7919

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Date: July 17, 2003 Reg. No. 31,792
Signature: Richard M. Rosati

REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116

In response to the Final Office Action dated June 3, 2003, please amend the above-referenced patent application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claim 1 without prejudice as follows:

1. (Four Times Amended) A method for manufacturing a pleated filter material from a thermally bonded non-woven fabric, comprising :
forming a single fibrous web from undrawn and drawn synthetic fibers;
pre-heating the fibrous web;
calendering the single fibrous web in a single calendering step without subsequent re-heating, wherein during the single calendering step, the undrawn fibers in the single fibrous web are bonded in a tension-free manner between non-